

***Pine Belt Broadcasting***  
3984 Country Road 32  
Arlington, Alabama 36722

March 7, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments  
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is to express Pine Belt Broadcasting, LLC's interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Experiments.

**A. Entity Background**

Pine Belt Broadcasting, LLC, d/b/a Pine Belt Telephone Competitive Services, is a family owned and operated Competitive Local Exchange Carrier and Cable TV franchise operator with deep roots in the Black Belt region of Alabama. Pine Belt started its facilities based CLEC operations in 2002 as a separate but complementary extension of its ILEC operations, Pine Belt Telephone Co., Inc. which has been providing landline based services to Arlington, Dixons Mills, Sweet Water and Nanafalia for over 50 years.

The company was founded by Dr. James D. (Buddy) Nettles in 1958 and remains family owned and 100% dedicated to the needs of the citizens of this area. Through its ILEC and CLEC entities, Pine Belt provides both twisted pair ADSL2+, Hybrid Fiber-Coax and Fiber-to-the-Premise services to parts of the Alabama counties of Marengo, Wilcox, Dallas, Clarke and Choctaw.

The Pine Belt Companies are headquartered in Arlington, Alabama, at 3984 County Road 32.

**B. Geographic Territory**

Pine Belt Telephone Competitive Services proposes to serve the high cost and extremely high cost locations within the following tracts.

State	County	County Name	TractID	Eligible High Cost Locations	Extremely High Cost Locations	Annual Support	Average Support per Sub	Square Miles	HH	Population
AL	01025	Clarke	01025957500	276	13	78061.44	282.831	96.2423	872	1760
AL	01025	Clarke	01025957602	93	4	32482.23	349.271	74.7659	2560	5515

**C. Broadband Technology**

Pine Belt Telephone Competitive Services is interested in deploying Active Ethernet IEEE 802.3 FTTH technology. This technology will be used to provide voice, broadband and video OTT services to the homes and home based businesses within the census block.

**D. Service Offerings**

The rates proposed for the fixed wireless high speed data service for the areas are as follows:

Mode	Rate limit	Res	Bus
FTTx (Synchronous)	5 mbps down 1 mbps up	\$ 34.95	\$ 59.95
	10 mbps down/1 mbps up	\$ 39.95	\$ 69.95
	15 mbps down/2 mbps up	\$ 49.95	\$ 89.95
	20 mbps down /3 mbps up	\$ 59.95	\$ 99.95
	30 mbps down / 5mbps up	\$ 74.95	\$ 119.90

Besides the High Speed Internet Service, Pine Belt Telephone Competitive Services will provide Voice Over IP and Video Services.

**E. State, Local or Tribal Participation**

Choctaw, Shawnee and Creek are the only historic tribes in the area within the tracts for the Pine Belt Telephone Competitive Services.

**F. Existing Providers**

The existing providers within the two (2) tracts are AT&T, Mediacom Communications and Verizon.

**G. List of Anchor Institutions**

Anchor Institutions by Tract		
SYRENE FIRE DEPARTMENT	DICKINSON	AL
FULTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 2	FULTON	AL
FULTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	FULTON	AL
FULTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 1	FULTON	AL
THOMASVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	THOMASVILLE	AL
SOUTHWEST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER	THOMASVILLE	AL
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL LAW ENFORCEMENT - GROVE HILL OFFICE	THOMASVILLE	AL
THOMASVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 3	THOMASVILLE	AL
THOMASVILLE HIGH SCHOOL	THOMASVILLE	AL
THOMASVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL	THOMASVILLE	AL
THOMASVILLE CITY SCHOOLS BOE	THOMASVILLE	AL
ALABAMA SOUTHERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	THOMASVILLE	AL
THOMASVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 2	THOMASVILLE	AL
THOMASVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	THOMASVILLE	AL

**H. Funding Proposed**

The estimated proposed funding required to construct the facility within the two (2) tracts are illustrated in the table below:

Tract	Tower Costs	Fiber Costs	Engineering	Total
1025957500	\$1,200,000	\$468,000	\$50,040	\$1,718,040
1025957602	\$900,000	\$351,000	\$37,530	\$1,288,530
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				<b>\$3,006,570</b>

**I. Project Timeline**

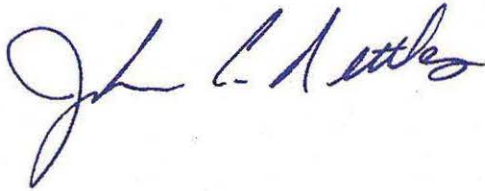
Pine Belt Telephone Competitive Services anticipates a three (3) year time requirement to complete construction in the area.

**J. Comments**

Pine Belt Telephone Competitive Services requests the funds for the project to be provided up front in a single lump sum payment.

Thank you for considering our expression of interest in your decision regarding the amount of funding that will be allocated in the Rural Broadband Experiments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John C. Nettles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John C. Nettles  
President  
Pine Belt Broadcasting, LLC